

Rye Rural

NORTHIAM,

*February 6th, 1905.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth Annual Report upon the health of the Rye Rural District.

The population of the District according to the Census taken in 1901 was 7,121, and I have estimated it at the same number for 1904.

There were in all 97 deaths during the year in the District, but 8 of the deaths occurring in the Rye Union Workhouse were of persons who did not previously live in the Rural District, so for statistical purposes they are omitted, and we are left with 89 deaths, giving the low death rate of 12·5 per 1,000.

The only death from zymotic disease was one from Diphtheria, so the zymotic death rate is ·14 per 1,000.

There were 6 deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis, but the deaths occurred in five different months, and in different localities, and were apparently not cases of Epidemic Diarrhœa.

There was no fatal case of Pulmonary Tubercle during the year, but two deaths were certified as due to abdominal tubercle, and one as cerebral tubercle so the total tubercle death rate is ·4 per 1,000.

Diseases of the Respiratory organs account for 20 deaths (including two certified as due to Acute Laryngitis) which give a Respiratory death rate of 2·8 per 1,000.

There were three deaths from Cancer, and ten from diseases of the Heart. Five deaths were the result of accidents and there was one suicide.

Influenza in an epidemic form was prevalent at the beginning and end of the year, but it was only certified as the cause of one death.

There were 147 births during the year, giving the low birth rate of 20·6 per 1,000: and there were 15 deaths of children under one year, giving an infant mortality of 102 per 1,000 births.

During the year the following cases of Infectious disease were notified—Diphtheria 9 cases: Erysipelas 4 cases: Scarlatina 24 cases: Enteric Fever 2 cases. Of the Diphtheria cases two occurred in Beckley in April, and one in May, and one in June, and one in July, and two in August. All these were associated with Sanitary defects which have been remedied as far as possible. Two cases of Diphtheria (one of them fatal) occurred in one house in Brede: the origin of this outbreak could not be ascertained. The cases of Erysipelas were of mild type: three occurred in one house at Playden, but there was no obvious cause for the outbreak. The cases of Scarlatina though numerous were also mild in type: there were 16 in Northiam and Beckley, 6 in Rye Harbour, and 2 in East Guldeford. In Northiam the Schools were closed for a time. In each of the districts the epidemic seems now at an end. The cases in Northiam and Beckley were probably infected from cases in the Battle Rural District. The two cases of Enteric Fever occurred in the parish of Icklesham in September and October and their origin was obscure.



Disinfectants are supplied to each of the village Post Offices, so that they may be immediately available in all cases. Sulphur fumigation is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector upon the termination of Infectious cases. The want of a hospital for the isolation of the first cases of Infectious disease was evident during the epidemics of Diphtheria and of Scarlatina. A Committee of the Rural and Urban District Councils of Rye has recently inspected the Isolation Hospital at New Romney, and they have recommended the purchase of a site in the parish of Udimore and the fencing in of the same: they also recommend that a similar hospital to the one at New Romney be erected (of corrugated iron with match-board lining). In the event of an outbreak of Small Pox a suitable Marquee is available as a temporary hospital, and arrangements have been made for a suitable site on Cadboro' Farm, in the parish of Rye.

There are no polluted streams and no offensive trades.

The Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Windmills, and Quarries in the District have been inspected, and found to comply with the Acts of Parliament referring to them.

I have systematically inspected the District, and find that the Sewerage systems in Northiam, Peasmarsh, Winchelsea and Icklesham are working efficiently. The rest of the District is provided with cesspools which are not always emptied as frequently as they should be. A sewage cart has been provided for Rye Harbour, for the conveyance of the contents of the cesspools to a distant spot selected by the Surveyor.

Water has been laid on to Rye Harbour from the Rye Borough Water Works, and a similar supply for portions of Playden and Rye Foreign is under consideration. With the exception of Winchelsea, which has its own waterworks, the rest of the District is dependent upon wells and springs for its water supply. A scheme for supplying water to Northiam, Beckley, Peasmarsh, Brede, Rye Foreign and Playden from deep wells in the Brede Valley, with a reservoir at Broad Oak, Brede, was submitted to the Parish Councils of the Parishes named, but they all declined to consider it except Northiam, so the matter dropped, but it or some other scheme will have to be considered, as owing to dry seasons and perhaps owing to the amount of water taken by the Hastings Corporation from deep wells in the Brede Valley, the water supply of the Parishes above mentioned is getting more and more scanty.

Bye-Laws in respect of new buildings and certain matters in connection with buildings are now in force in the District.

Some cases of overcrowding have come under my notice, and in some cases—notably in Beckley—the supply of suitable cottages is deficient, but this is being remedied.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER WYNNE,

*Medical Officer of Health Rye Rural District.*

*The Chairman and Members of the  
Rye Rural District Council.*

THE  
Rural District Council  
OF  
RYE.

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REPORT  
OF  
MR. WALTER WYNNE,  
*Medical Officer of Health,*  
FOR THE  
YEAR, 1904.

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*Northiam,  
6th February, 1905.*